

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN[®]

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS • STEFANO CASELLI • MARTE GRACIA



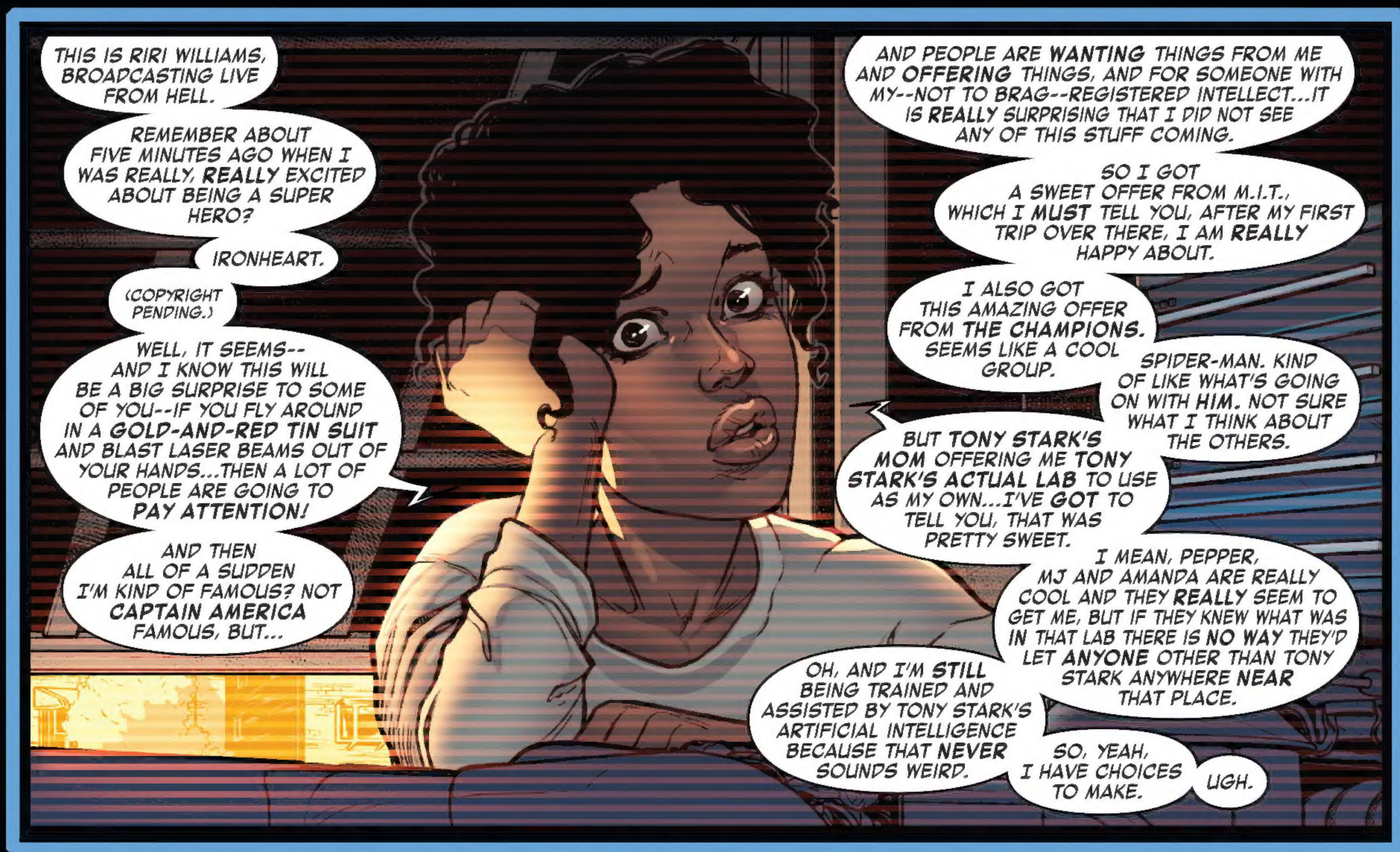
INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

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**STEFANO
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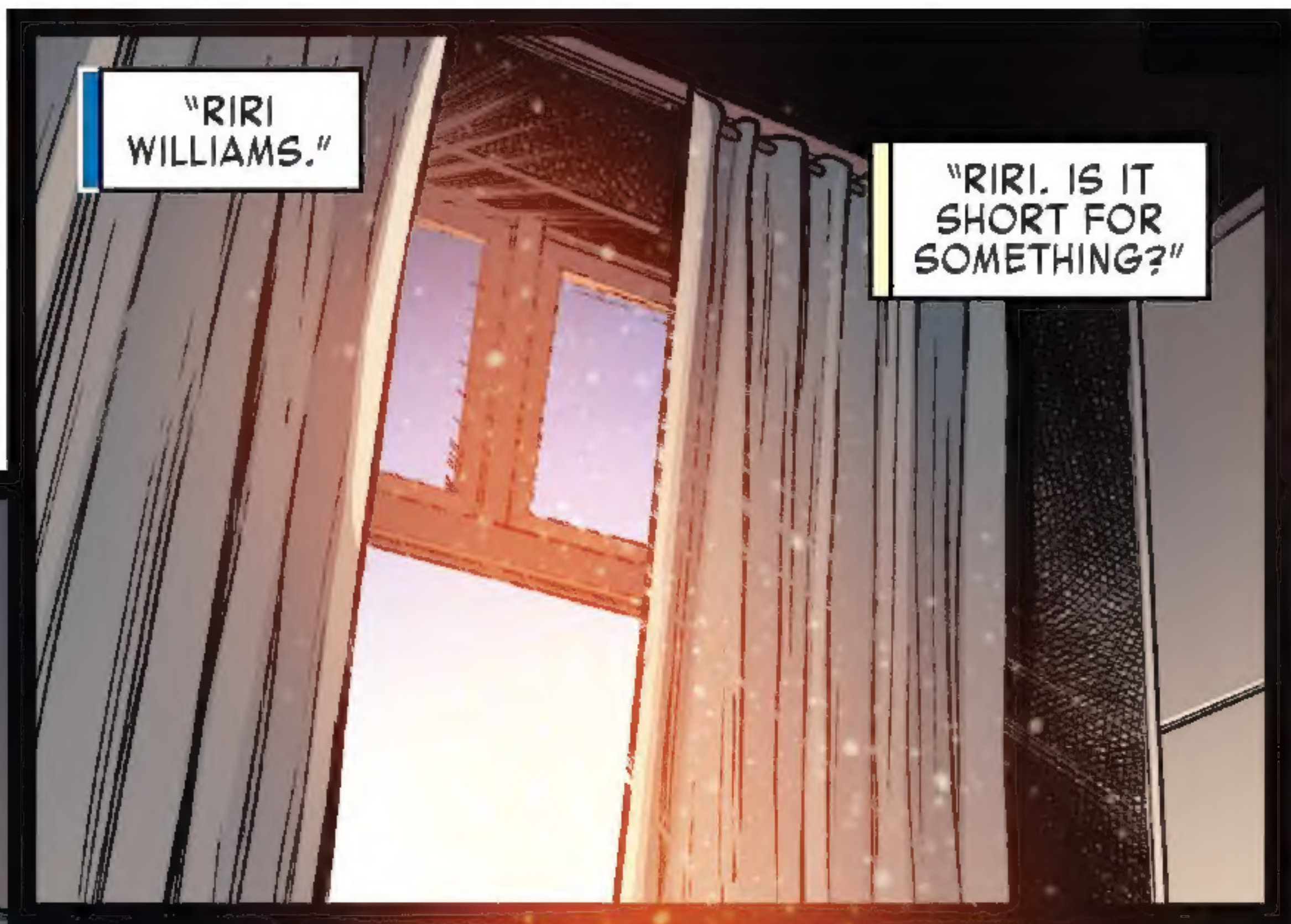
**VC's CLAYTON
COWLES**
LETTERER



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DAN BUCKLEY PRESIDENT ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK AND JACK KIRBY



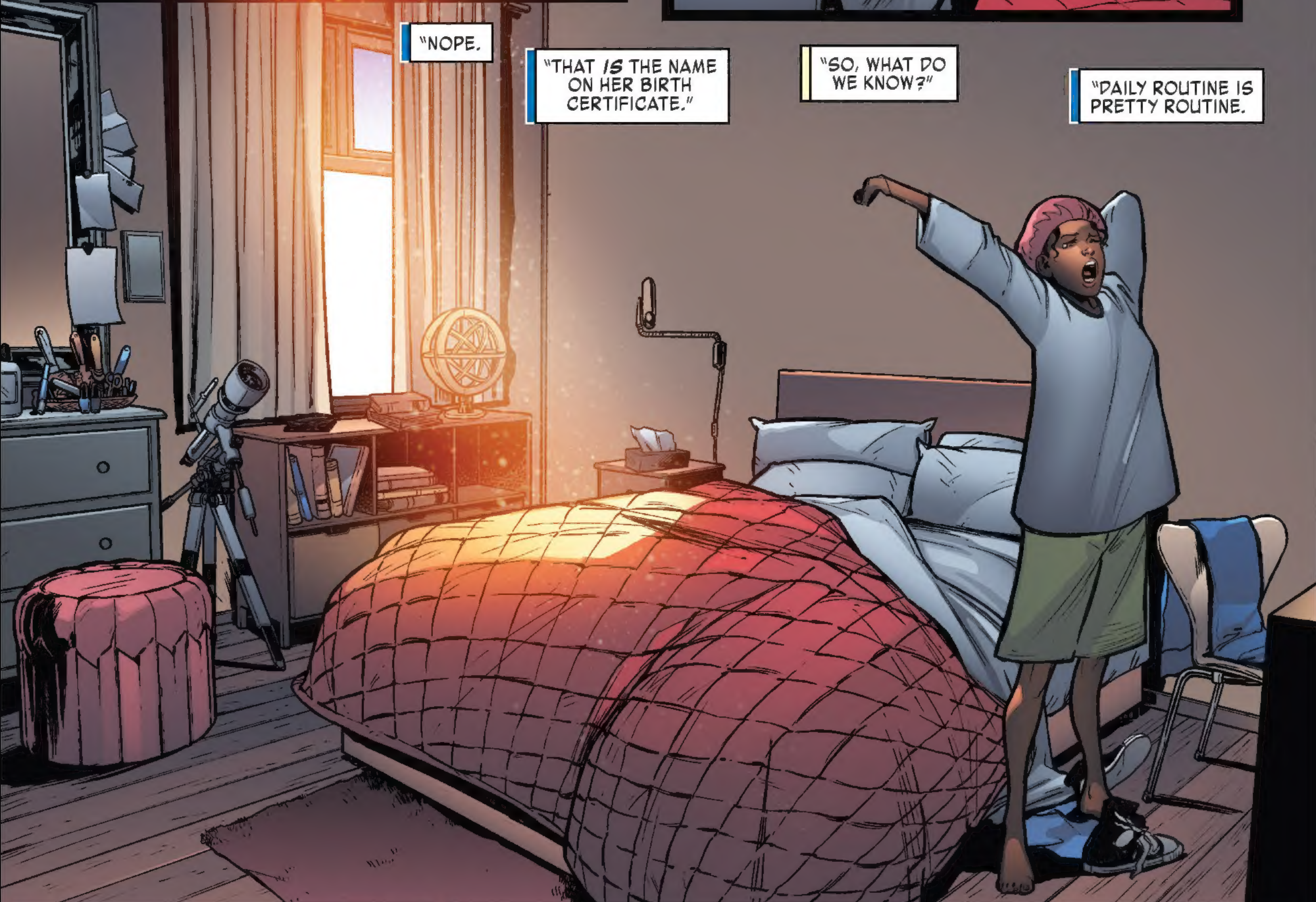
"RIRI WILLIAMS."

"RIRI. IS IT SHORT FOR SOMETHING?"



"NO, MA'AM."

"OH, I JUST ASSUMED."

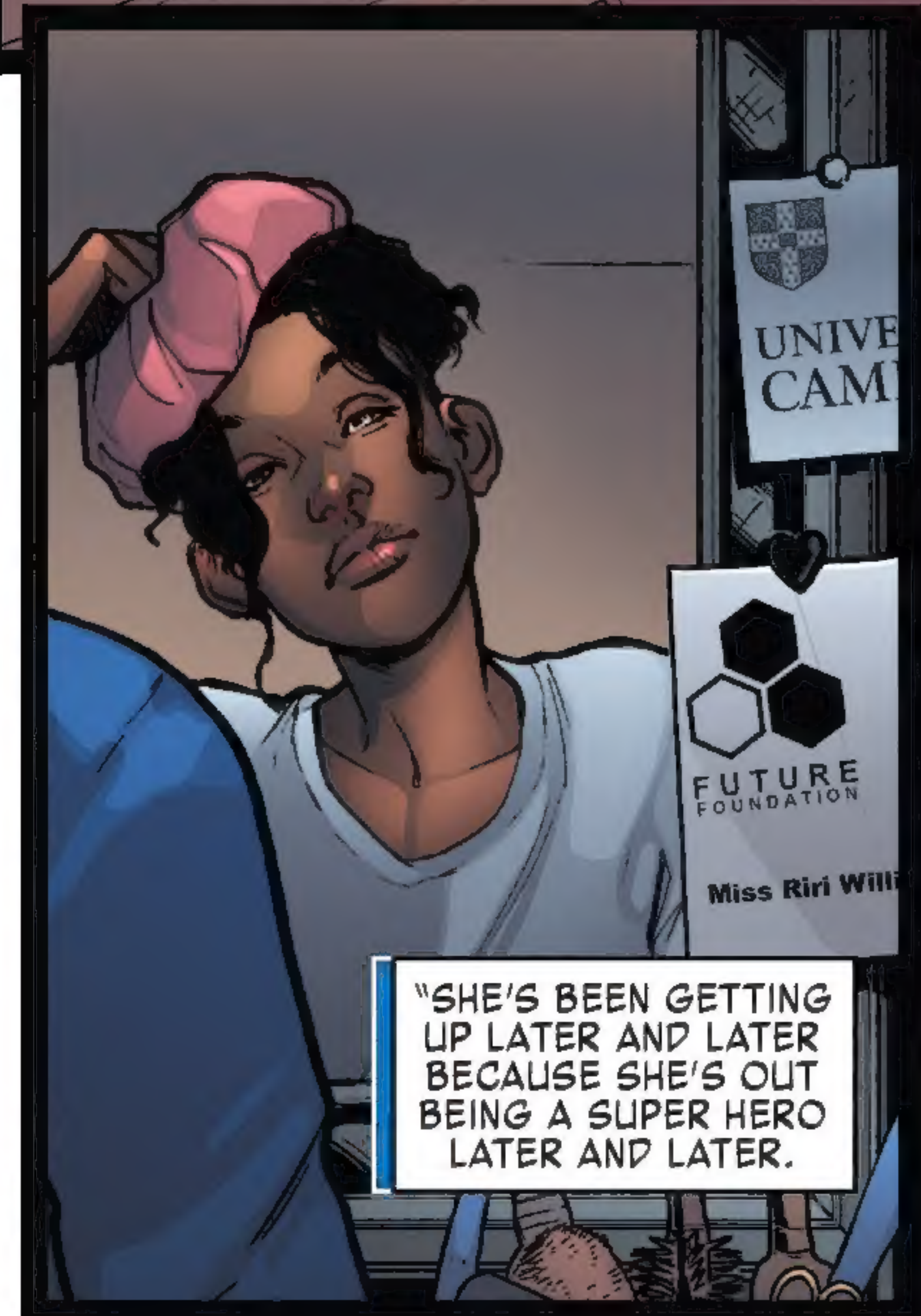


"NOPE."

"THAT *IS* THE NAME ON HER BIRTH CERTIFICATE."

"SO, WHAT DO WE KNOW?"

"DAILY ROUTINE IS PRETTY ROUTINE."



"SHE'S BEEN GETTING UP LATER AND LATER BECAUSE SHE'S OUT BEING A SUPER HERO LATER AND LATER."



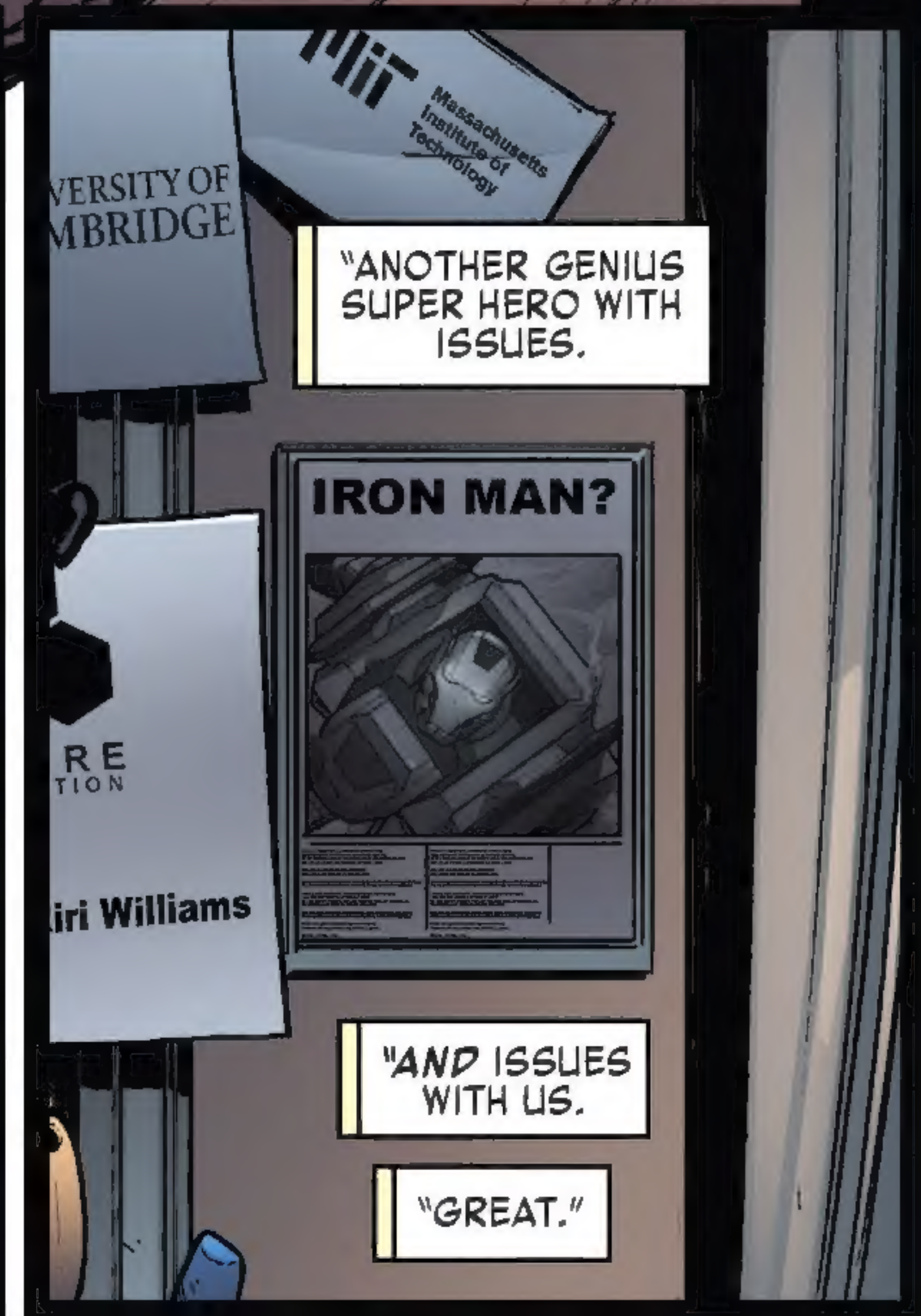
"SHE LIVES ALONE WITH HER MOTHER."

"CHICAGO."

"THE MOTHER IS A DOUBLE WIDOW."

"DOUBLE WIDOW? GEEZ."

"LAST ONE DIED RIGHT IN FRONT OF OUR RIRI."



"ANOTHER GENIUS SUPER HERO WITH ISSUES."

"IRON MAN?"

"AND ISSUES WITH US."

"GREAT."

"HER MOTHER WORKS FOR THE CHICAGO FILM COMMISSION."

"SHE MET KEVIN COSTNER ONCE."

"SHE TELLS A LOT OF PEOPLE."

"YOU WANT ROUTINE?"

"HER MOTHER ALWAYS LEAVES SOMETHING FOR RIRI TO HAVE FOR BREAKFAST BEFORE SHE GOES TO HER GARAGE AND WORKS ON HER ARMOR."

"IN THE 45 SECONDS IT TAKES TO HEAT UP THE FOOD, RIRI USUALLY THINKS OF SOMETHING RELATED TO HER ARMOR..."

"...AND SEVEN HOURS LATER, HER MOTHER WILL FIND THE FORGOTTEN BREAKFAST IN THE MICROWAVE, AND IT WILL NOT BE A SURPRISE."

BEEP
BEEP

"WE KNOW HER INTEL CONSUMPTION IS APOITICAL AND WORLDLY."

"SHE TAKES IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW."

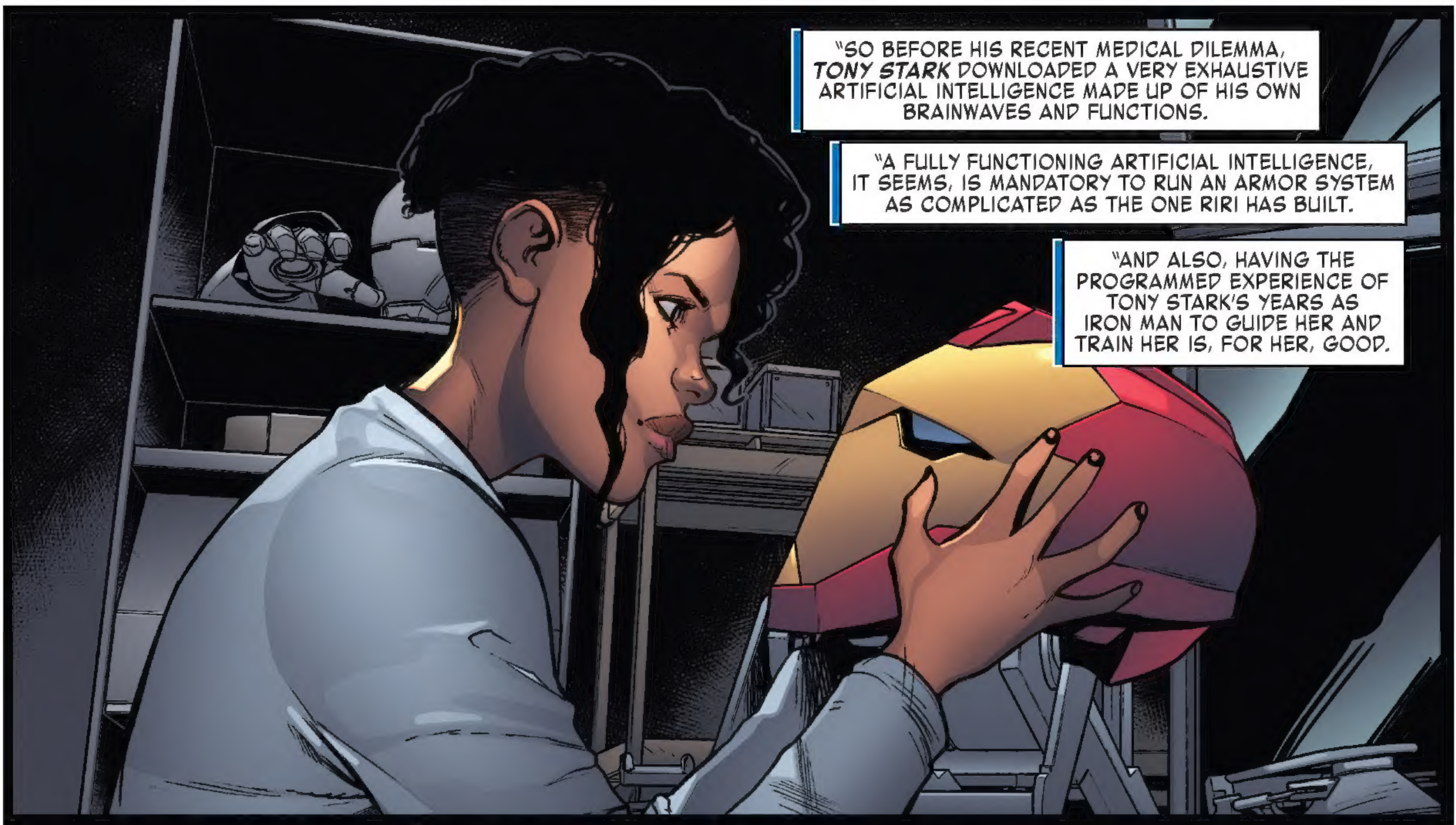
"SOMETIMES SIMULTANEOUSLY."

"SHE SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO RETAIN THE INFORMATION FROM MULTIPLE BROADCASTS WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY WORKING ON COMPLEX COMPUTATIONS."

"HER DESIGN THEORY LEAVES SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED, BUT HER ADVANCEMENTS IN PERSONAL TECH ARE STARTLING."

"TALK TO ME ABOUT THIS TONY STARK ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SHE'S WORKING WITH..."

"YES. THIS IS INTERESTING..."



"SO BEFORE HIS RECENT MEDICAL DILEMMA, **TONY STARK** DOWNLOADED A VERY EXHAUSTIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MADE UP OF HIS OWN BRAINWAVES AND FUNCTIONS.

"A FULLY FUNCTIONING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, IT SEEMS, IS MANDATORY TO RUN AN ARMOR SYSTEM AS COMPLICATED AS THE ONE RIRI HAS BUILT.

"AND ALSO, HAVING THE PROGRAMMED EXPERIENCE OF **TONY STARK'S** YEARS AS **IRON MAN** TO GUIDE HER AND TRAIN HER IS, FOR HER, GOOD.



"BUT OUR OWN **ADVANCED TECH TEAM** HAD SOME **CONCERNS** ABOUT AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE BASED ON ANYBODY... LET ALONE **TONY STARK**.

"IT'S HERE IN THIS MEMO."

"OH.

"THAT'S-- WHAT?"

"THAT'S A LITTLE BIT ON THE HYSTERICAL SIDE."



"THEY SEEM TO THINK THAT WITHOUT THE FRAILTY OF THE HUMAN BODY TO SUBDUCE THE BRAIN'S NATURAL EGO--"

"OH, PLEASE. **TONY STARK** IS A **GOOD PERSON**. HE'S-- HE WAS A **GOOD MAN**.

"HE'S NOT GOING TO PROGRAM A PROGRAM OF **HIMSELF** TO GO **BERSERK**.



"YOU KNOW WHAT?"

"ON SECOND THOUGHT, PUT A COVERT SURVEILLANCE TEAM ON IT."

"YES, MA'AM."



"AND I WANT **DAILY UPDATES**.

"I WANT ONE AT THE NIGHTTIME BRIEFING.

"**EVERY NIGHT**."



HEY, IT'S ME. ANOTHER DAY OF "OH MY GOD, I CAN FLY!"

"ACCORDING TO THE HACK WE HAVE ON **MISS WILLIAMS'** PERSONAL VIDEO JOURNAL..."

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.

1,000 MILES OVER TULSA.

...SHE FEELS THERE'S BEEN A REAL ANTI-SPIDER-MAN BIAS IN THE MEDIA.

SHE FOUND IT TROUBLING.

AND SHE'S SERIOUSLY LEANING TOWARD ACCEPTING THE OFFER FROM M.I.T.

SHE SEEMS REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF WORKING WITH THE OTHER TEENAGE SUPER HEROES--

--THE ONES THAT CALL THEMSELVES THE CHAMPIONS.

OH YEAH, I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO SHUT THAT THING DOWN...THEY HAVE AN UNLICENSED HULK.

IT WOULD BE VERY GOOD FOR HER, SUB-DIRECTOR CARTER.

SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS HER OWN AGE.

ALL SHE HAS IS THE STARK A.I.

HER BEST FRIEND WAS MURDERED IN FRONT OF HER AT A CHURCH PICNIC...

...AND WE CAN CONFIRM SHE WAS GIVEN A SUBSTANTIAL OFFER BY STARK INDUSTRIES. FULL RIDE.

NOW, SEE, THAT MAKES ME MAD.

THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE THROUGH US.

THE OFFER WAS SUBSTANTIAL.

KNOWING TONY STARK, HE'LL END UP OWNING ALL THE COPYRIGHTS TO HER WORK.

AND SHE DOESN'T CARE FOR US.

I HATE WHEN SMART PEOPLE DON'T LIKE US.

"SO, RIRI, DARLING, DO WE KNOW WHICH WAY WE'RE GOING?"

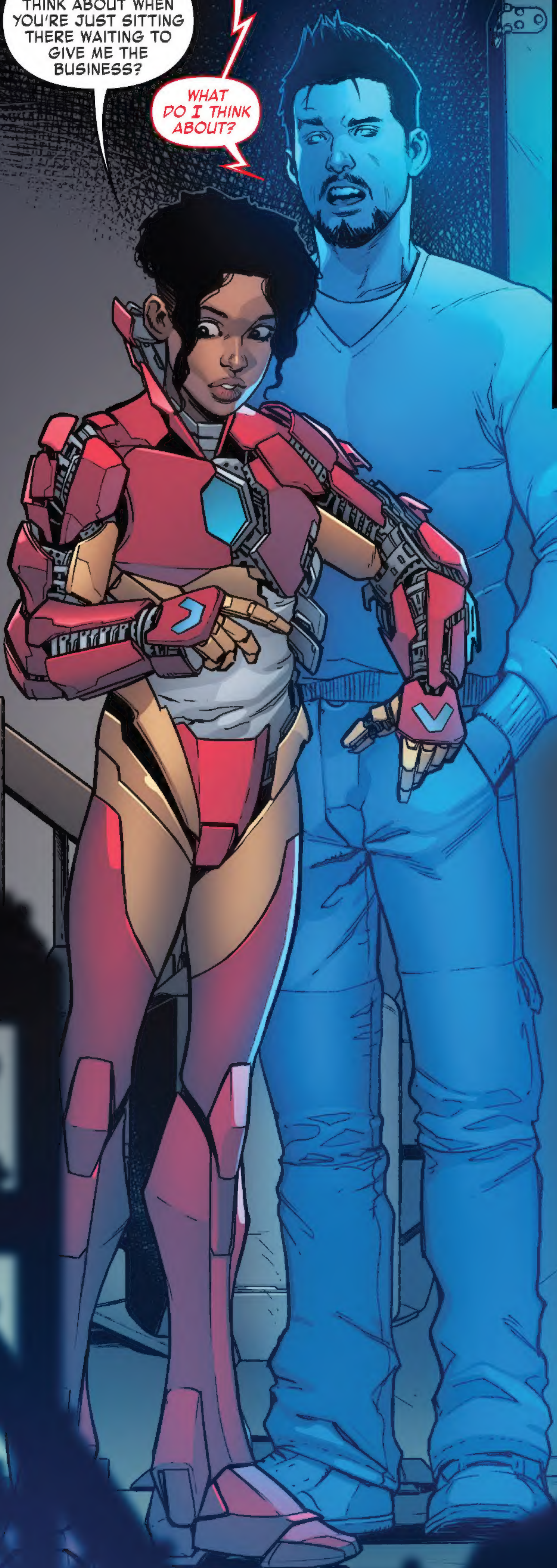
OH, GOOD MORNING, TRON VERSION OF TONY STARK.

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT WHEN YOU'RE JUST SITTING THERE WAITING TO GIVE ME THE BUSINESS?

TRON? WHAT A DUSTY REFERENCE FOR SUCH A YOUNG MIND.

WHAT DO I THINK ABOUT?

CHICAGO RIRI'S GARAGE.



I APPRECIATE YOU GIVING ME MY MORNING ALONE TIME, BUT I ALSO KNOW YOU'RE JUST SITTING THERE PRETENDING TO BE QUIET.

YOU'RE MONITORING MY VITALS...

WITH LOVE.

YOU CALCULATE THE DATA, THEN WHAT?

I'M AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

I'M DOING WHAT I WAS PROGRAMMED TO DO.

THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER.

IF YOU'RE THE DIGITAL RECONSTRUCTION OF SOMEONE'S ACTUAL CONSCIOUSNESS... THERE IS DECISION-MAKING AND FOLLOW-THROUGH IN YOUR PROGRAM.

ALMOST FREE WILL.

I THINK ABOUT HOW BEST TO SERVE YOU IN YOUR GOALS...AS I WAS PROGRAMMED TO DO.

ARE YOU AWARE THAT EVERYTHING YOU SAY SOUNDS JUST A LITTLE SARCASTIC?

YES.

INCLUDING THAT.

YES.

CAN I REPROGRAM YOU TO SOUND DIFFERENT?

I WANT TO BE HUGH GRANT.

I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS.

I WANT TO GO THERE, FOOL!

GO WHERE?

BUT SHE KNOWS TRON?

TO TRON!

LOOK AT ME: I'M READY!

YOU KNOW IT'S NOT A REAL PLACE.

IF THERE'S AN ASGARD IN THE SKY, THEN I'M GOING TO TRON FOR VACATION.

I THINK YOU MISSED THE POINT OF THE MOVIE, BUT OKAY.

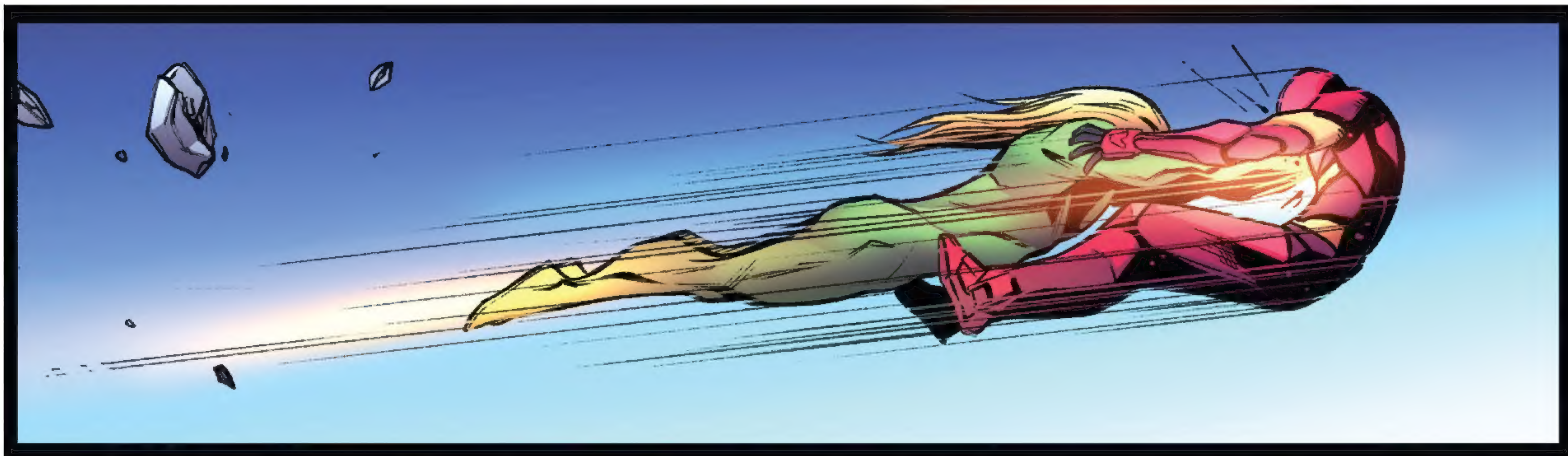
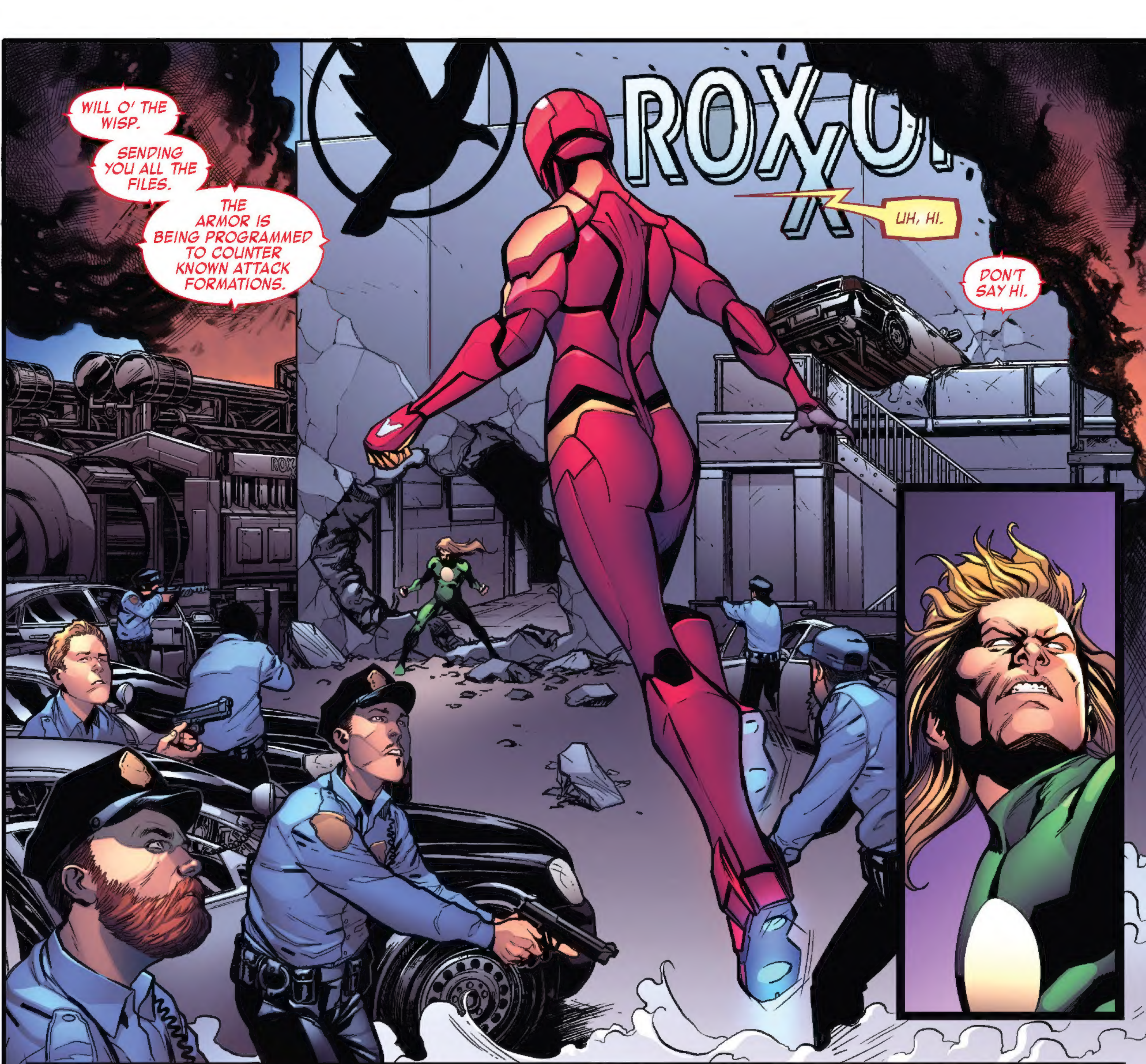
AND YOU DIDN'T ANSWER THE ORIGINAL QUESTION.

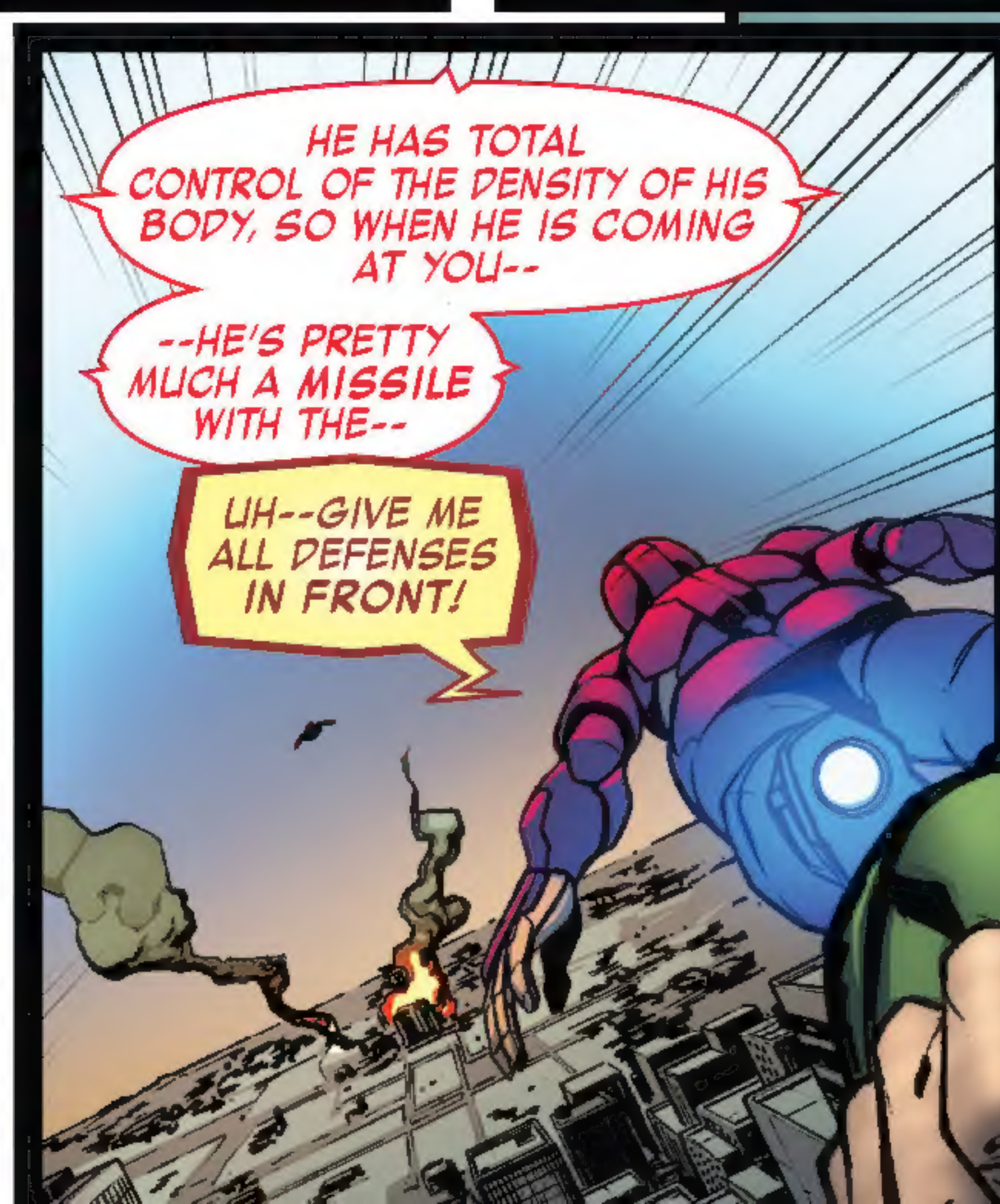
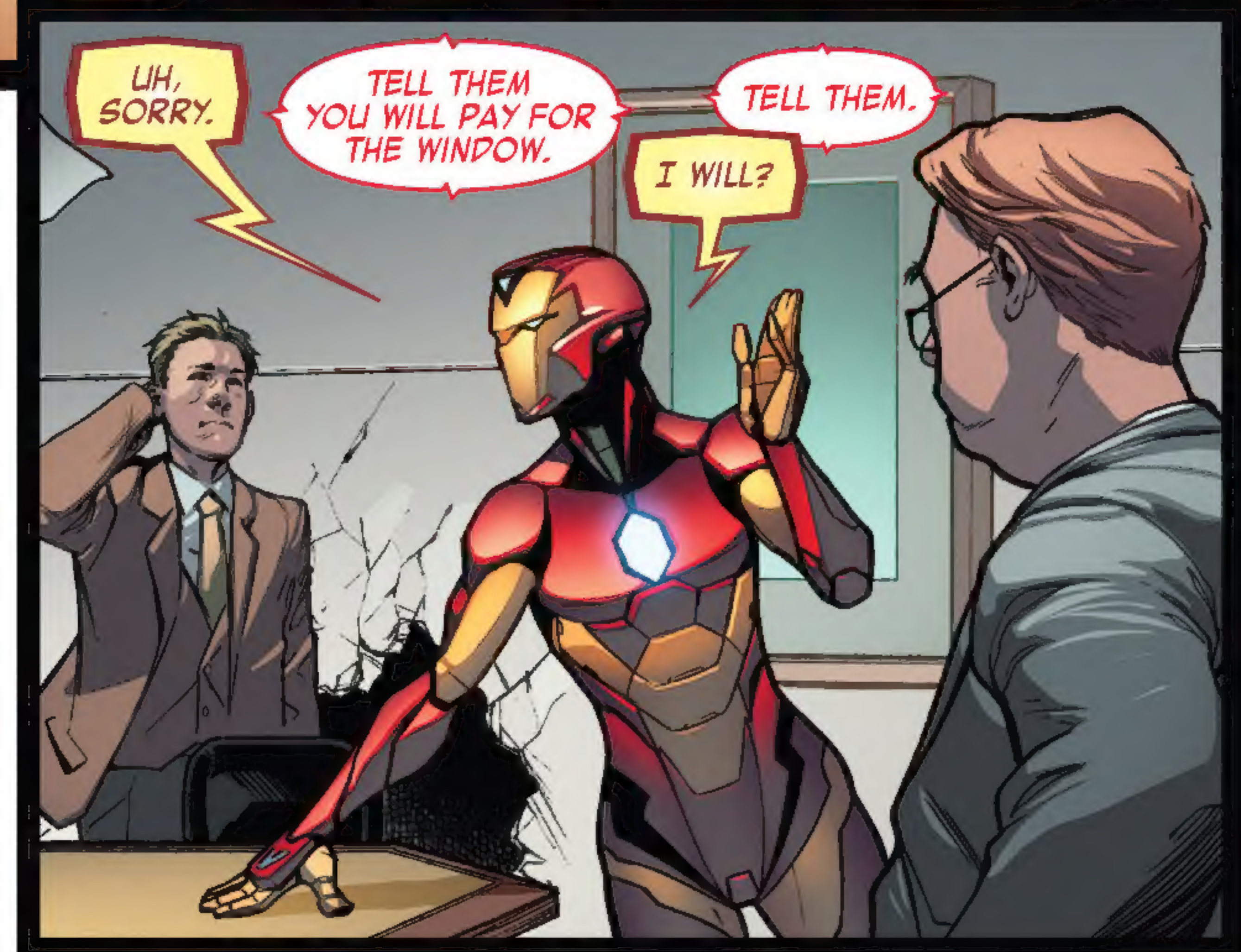
M.I.T.?

THOSE LITTLE SUPER-KIDS?

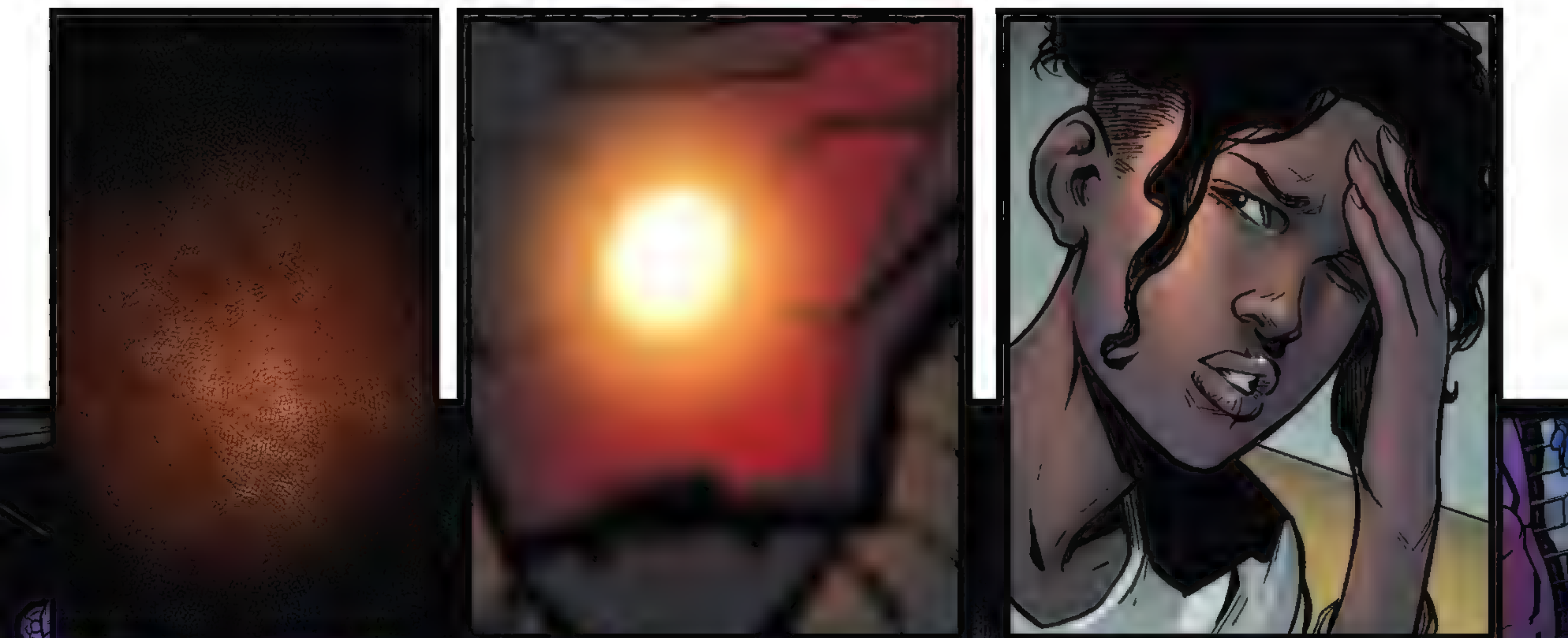
STARK LABORATORIES?

I'M A LITTLE BUSY NOW.

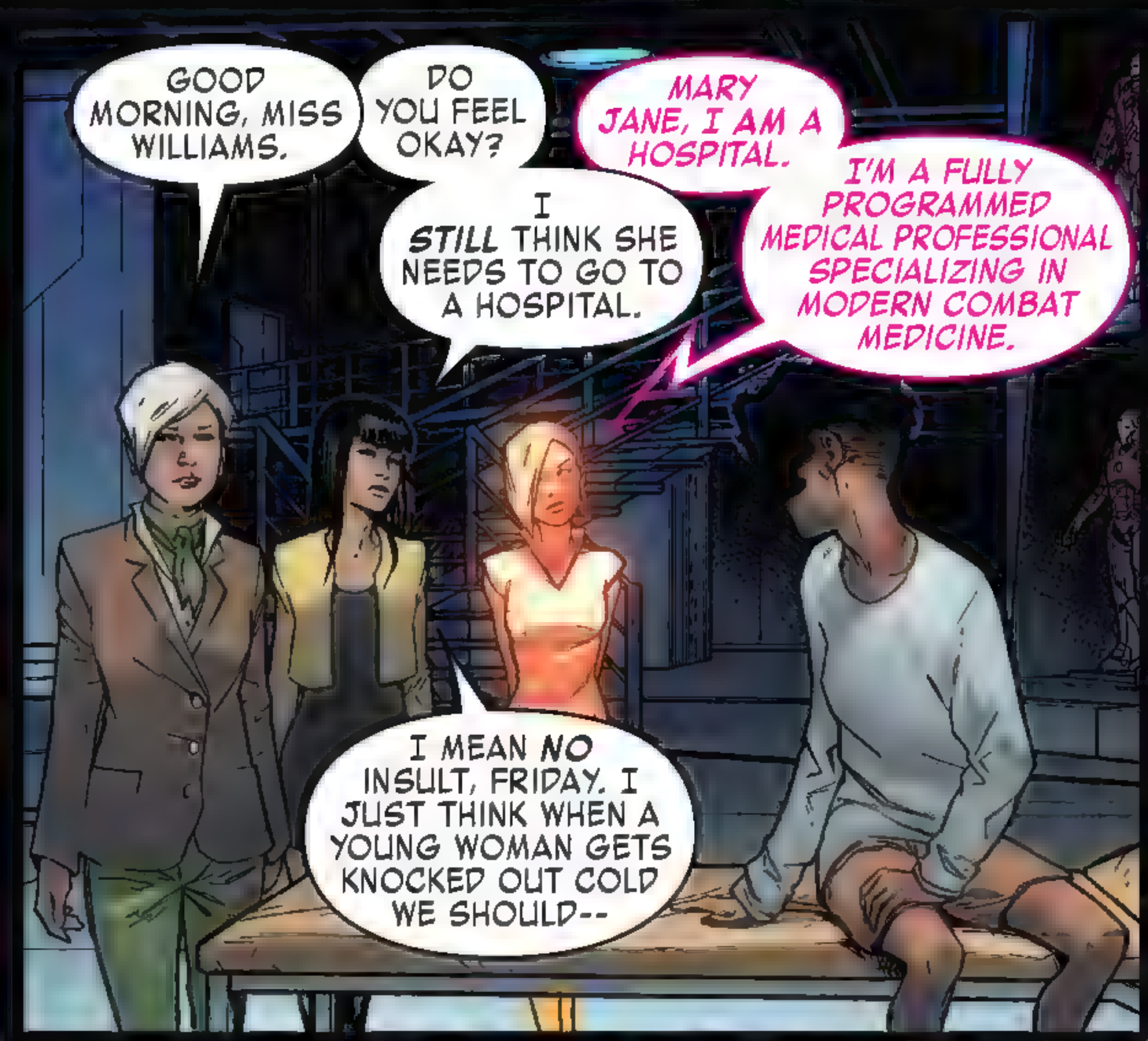








THERE SHE IS...



GOOD MORNING, MISS WILLIAMS.

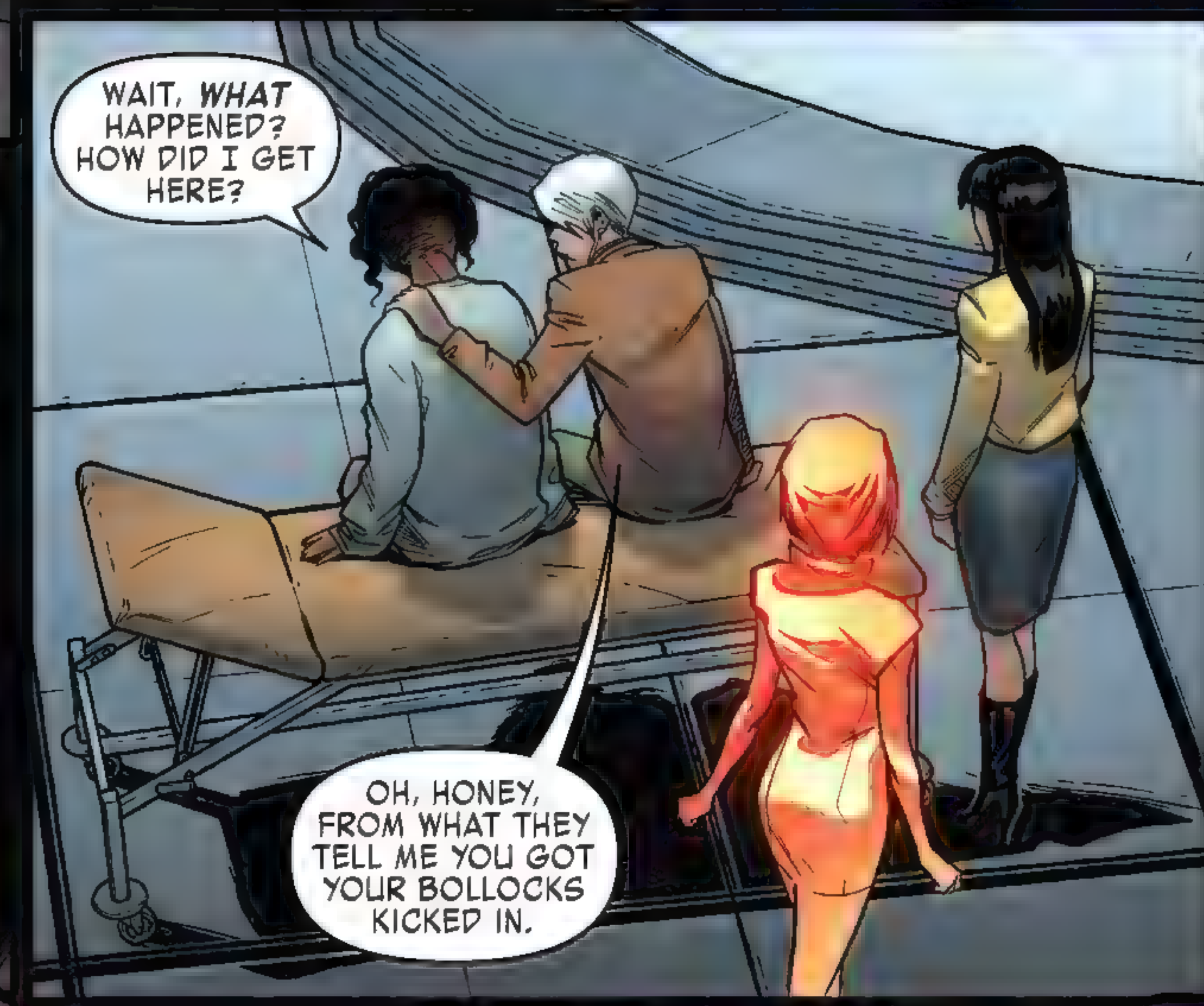
DO YOU FEEL OKAY?

MARY JANE, I AM A HOSPITAL.

I STILL THINK SHE NEEDS TO GO TO A HOSPITAL.

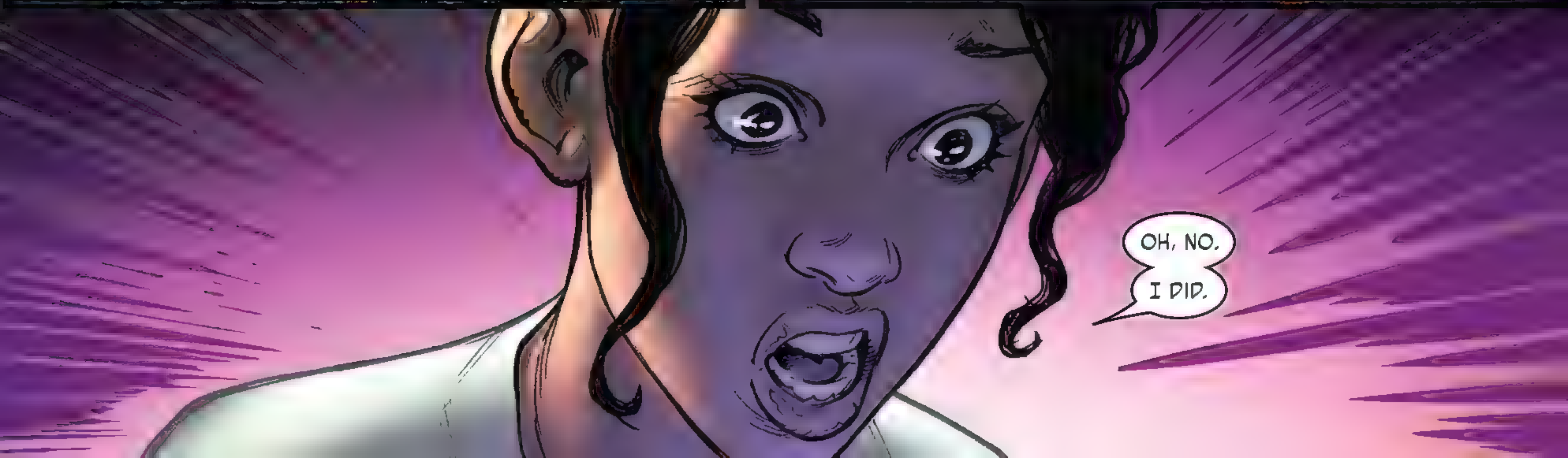
I'M A FULLY PROGRAMMED MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL SPECIALIZING IN MODERN COMBAT MEDICINE.

I MEAN NO INSULT, FRIDAY. I JUST THINK WHEN A YOUNG WOMAN GETS KNOCKED OUT COLD WE SHOULD--



WAIT, WHAT HAPPENED? HOW DID I GET HERE?

OH, HONEY, FROM WHAT THEY TELL ME YOU GOT YOUR BOLLOCKS KICKED IN.



OH, NO. I DID.



OKAY, STARK, WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO ABOUT MY FUTURE?

WHAT DOES YOUR GUT TELL YOU?

IS IT TELLING YOU TO FOCUS ON THIS FIGHT?



I GOT THIS.

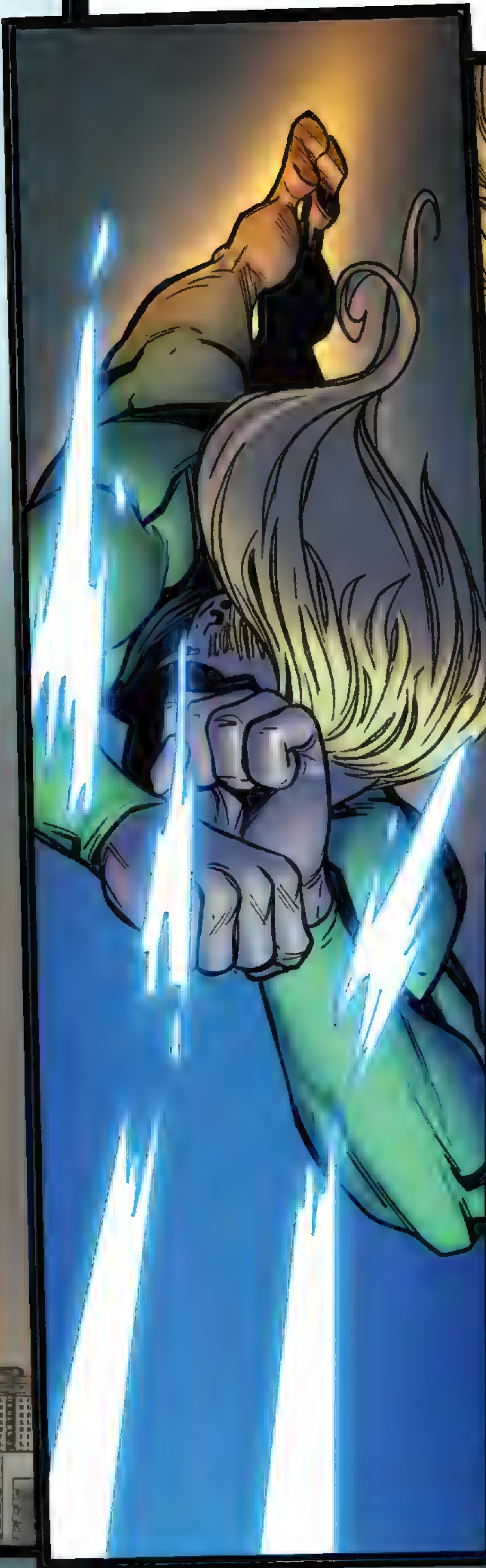
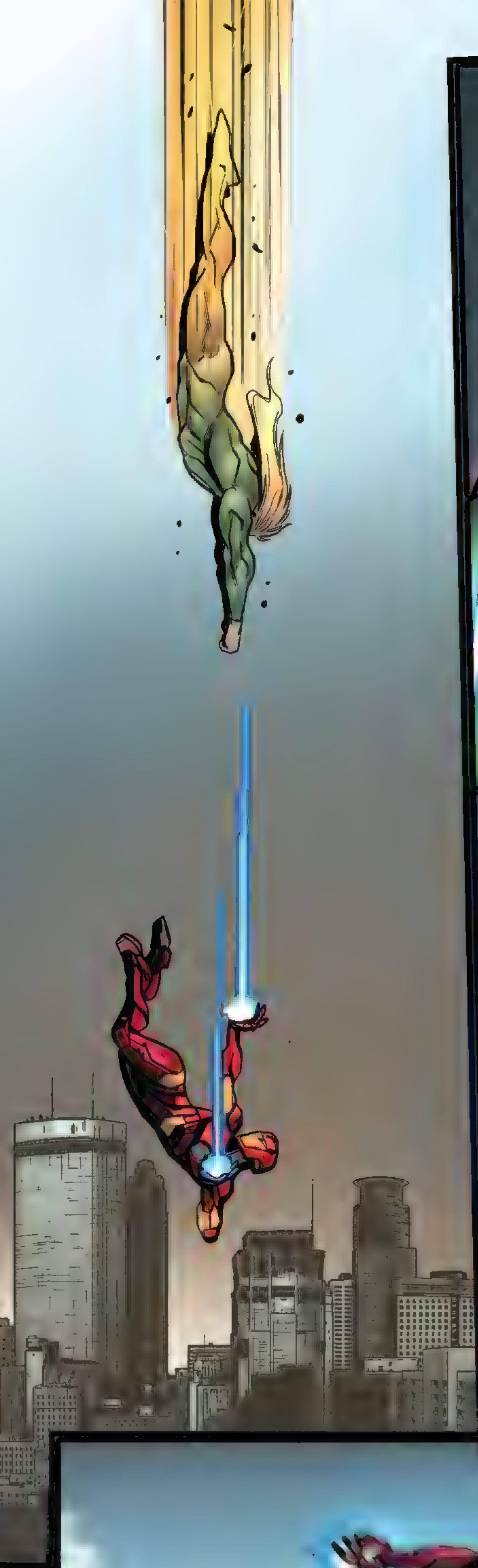


HE'S RATHER QUIET.

THE QUIET ONES ARE ALWAYS THE--

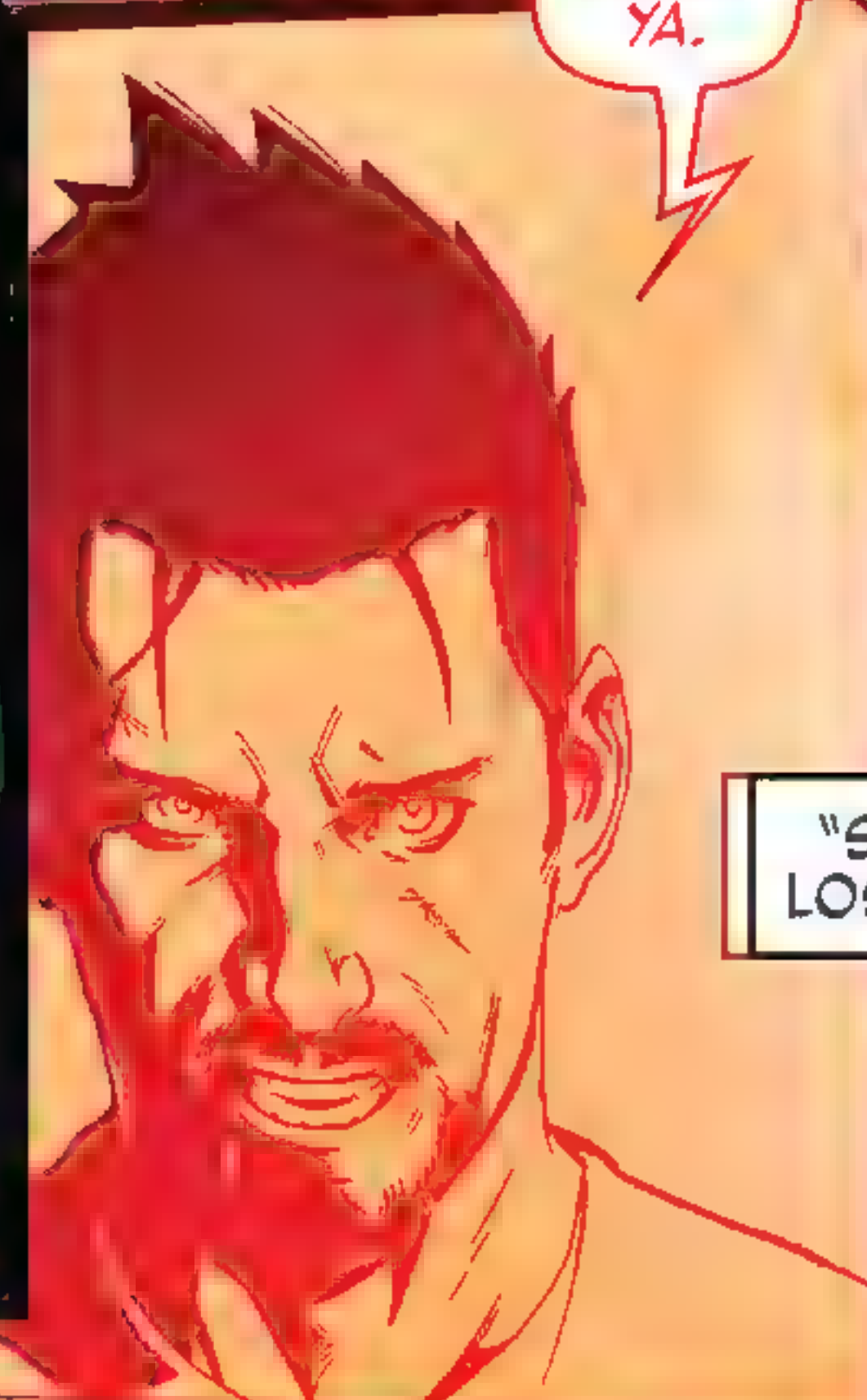
OH, NO.





I GOT
YA, KID.

I GOT
YA.



"SO I
LOST..."



WELL,
YEAH.



AND I
CALLED THE AVENGERS,
AND THEY CALLED SOMEONE
AND TOOK CARE
OF IT.

WE ACTUALLY
STALLED WILL O'
THE WISP LONG ENOUGH
FOR THE BUILDING SECURITY
TO SEAL THE BUILDING AND
HIDE WHAT HE WAS
TRYING TO STEAL.

SO YOU...
HELPED.



HEY...
...IT'S WHAT
YOU DO WITH
THE LOSS THAT
MATTERS.

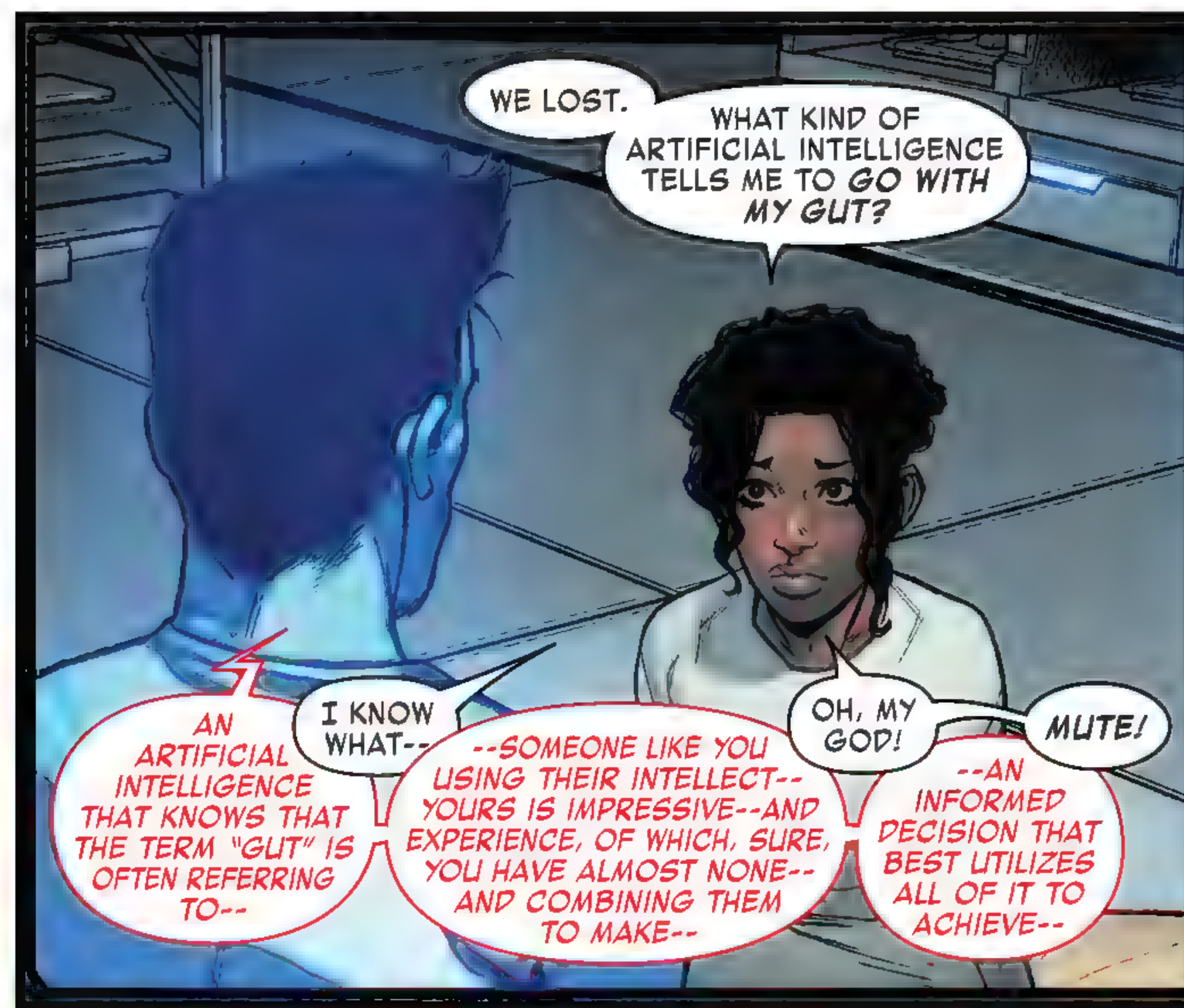


EXACTLY.

LET
THE HUMANS
TALK.

SHE NEVER
LISTENS TO ME
AND I'M LITERALLY
ALWAYS RIGHT.

"ALWAYS
RIGHT"?



WE LOST.

WHAT KIND OF
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
TELLS ME TO GO WITH
MY GUT?

AN
ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE
THAT KNOWS THAT
THE TERM "GUT" IS
OFTEN REFERRING
TO--

I KNOW
WHAT--

--SOMEONE LIKE YOU
USING THEIR INTELLECT--
YOURS IS IMPRESSIVE--AND
EXPERIENCE, OF WHICH, SURE,
YOU HAVE ALMOST NONE--
AND COMBINING THEM
TO MAKE--

OH, MY
GOD!

MUTE!

--AN
INFORMED
DECISION THAT
BEST UTILIZES
ALL OF IT TO
ACHIEVE--



WILL O'
THE WISP.

I GOT MY
ASS KICKED BY
WILL O' THE
WISP!

YOU KNOW, I
CAN SEE WHY TONY
STARK PICKED
YOU.

I CAN SEE WHY HE WAS CHALLENGED BY YOU.

YOU KNOW, HE'D KILL-SWITCH ME FOR SAYING THIS, BUT HE WAS BEGINNING TO WORRY A GREAT DEAL ABOUT WHETHER HE WAS EVER GOING TO HAVE CHILDREN...

UH, WHAT IS THIS?

IT WAS STILL UP IN THE AIR, OF COURSE--ALL OF LIFE IS. BUT IT LOOKED LIKE HE HAD ALL BUT RULED OUT ANY CHANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE...

...BECAUSE, WELL, IRON MAN.

SO HE SAW YOU, NOT AS A DAUGHTER, BUT AS A...KINDRED SPIRIT.

THERE'S REALLY NO OTHER WAY TO DESCRIBE IT.

I KNOW THAT SOMETIMES YOU AND I VERBALLY SPAR, BUT I HAVE A VERY HIGH OPINION OF YOU.

WOW.

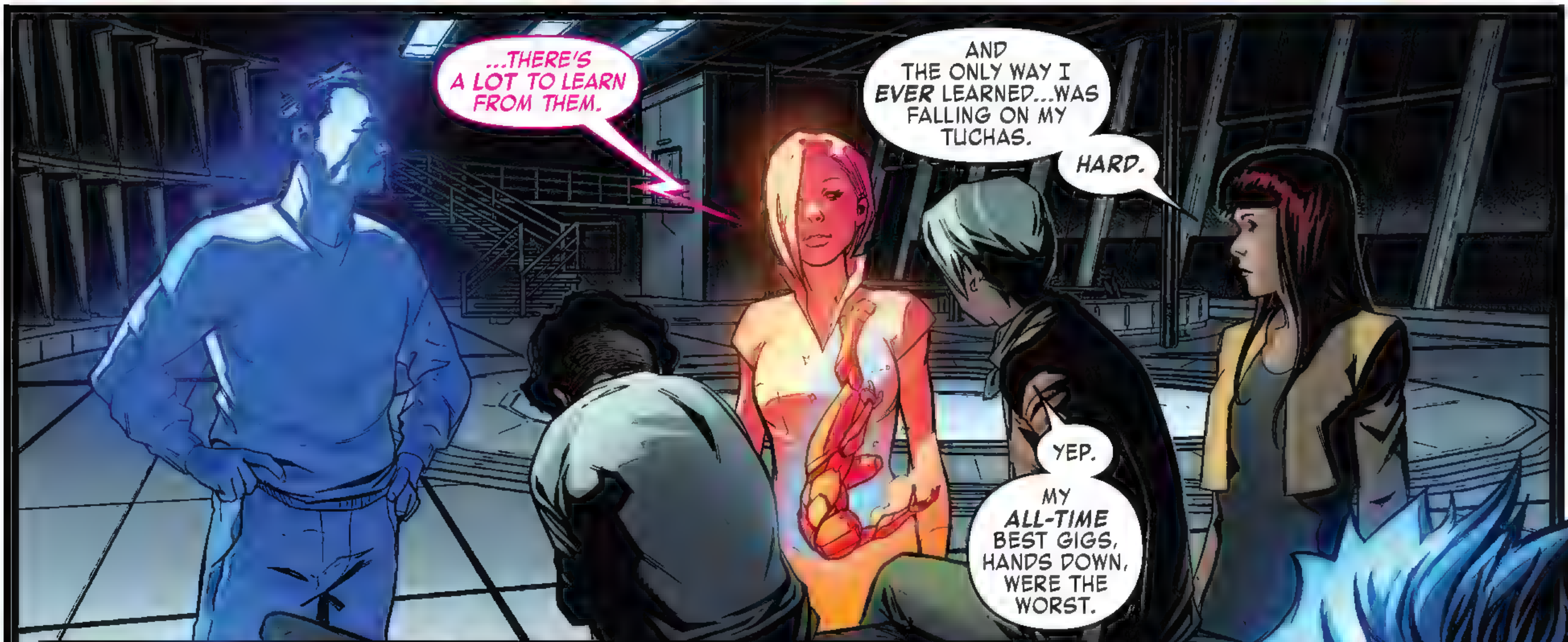
WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO SOUND LIKE MY BOY JUST THERE?

HE HAD HIS MOMENTS.

YES.

ADMIRATION?

HOW CAN YOU FEEL ADMIRATION?



"...IT WAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT."

LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN, I
PRESENT SHARON
CARTER.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF
S.H.I.E.L.D.

COMMANDER
CARTER, I AM SO GLAD
TO SEE YOU HERE.

YOUR
PREDECESSOR,
MARIA HILL, ALWAYS
SAID SHE WOULD COME
BUT NEVER MADE
IT.

WELL, THE
JOB DOESN'T
ALWAYS LET US DO
WHAT WE WANT TO
DO, SENATOR.

OF
COURSE.

GRAB
A DRINK. I'LL
SWING BY YOU
LATER.

I WANTED
TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT THE
TRICARRIER BILL
PROPOSAL.

MISS
CARTER?

MAY
I HAVE YOUR
EAR?

I'M
SORRY, HAVE
WE MET?

NOT
OFFICIALLY.

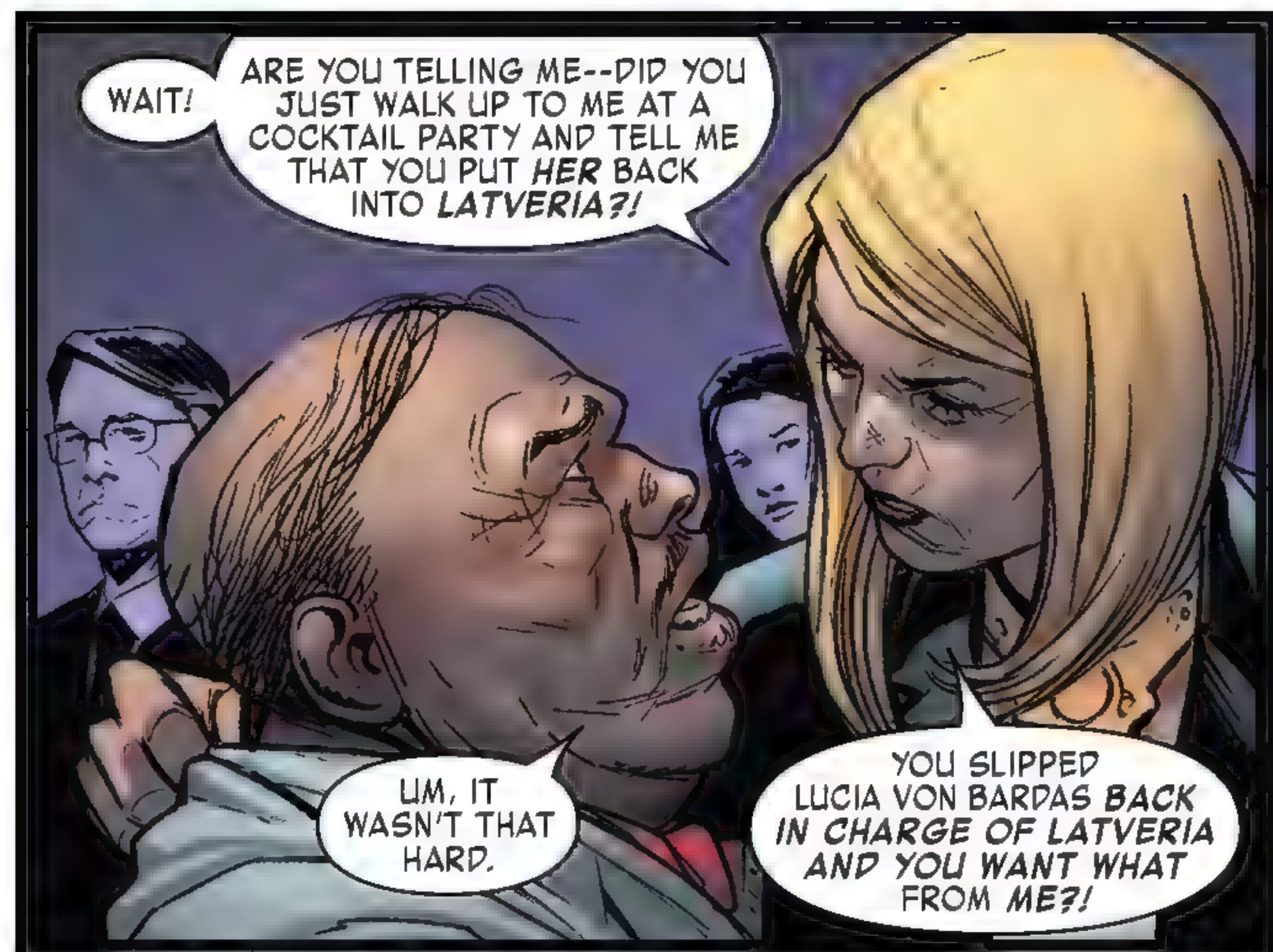
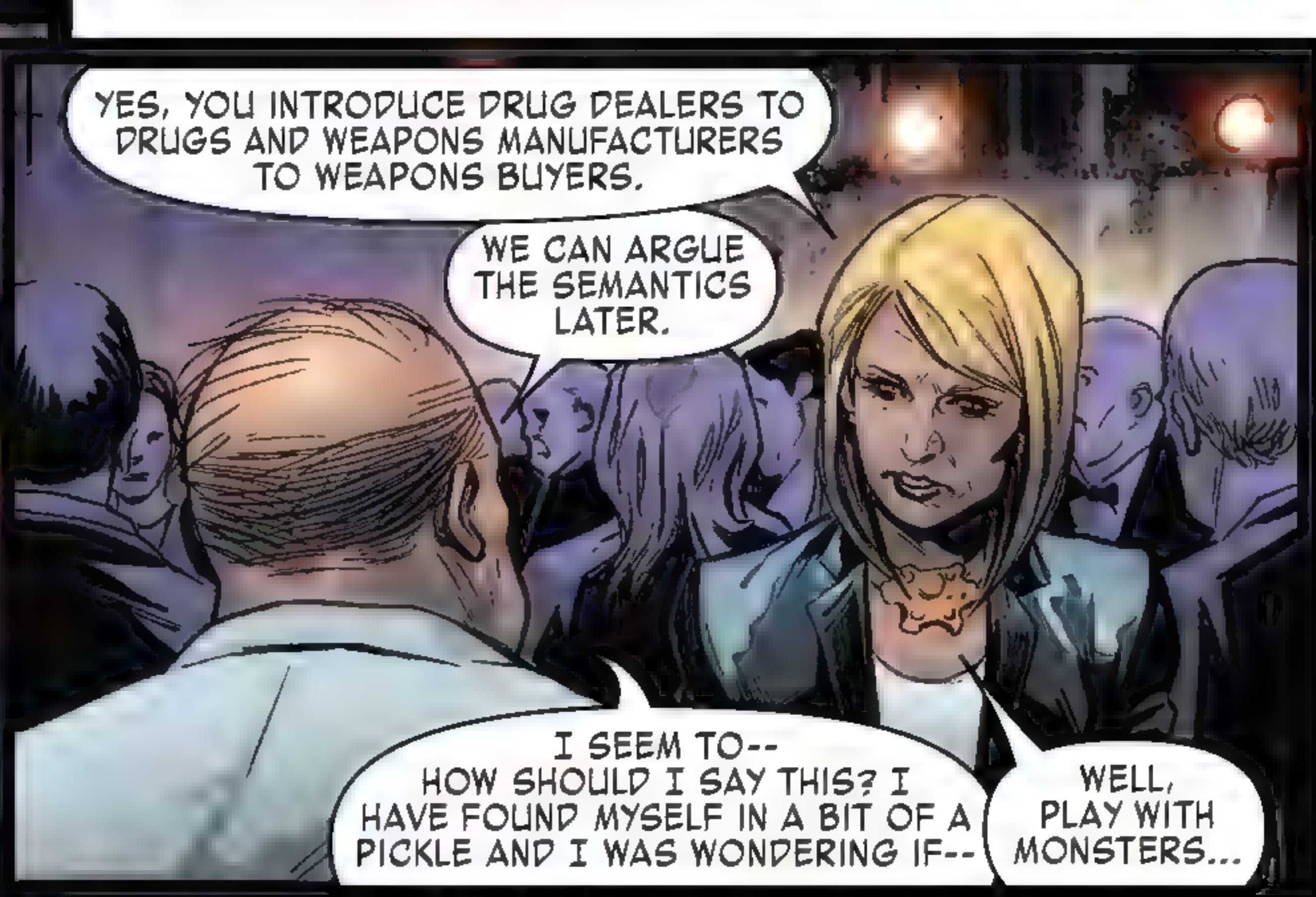
I AM
GERALDO
LUCKY.

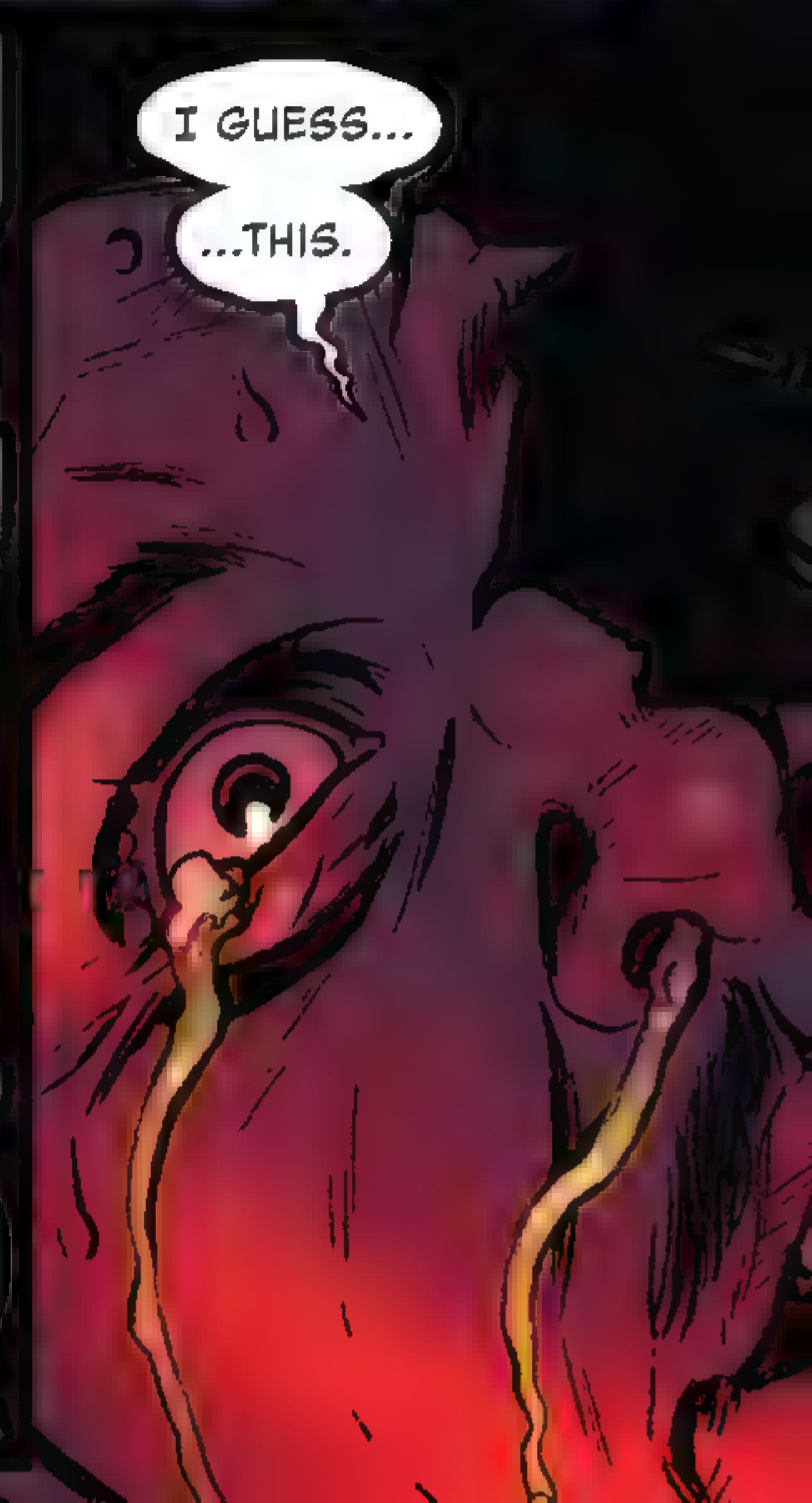
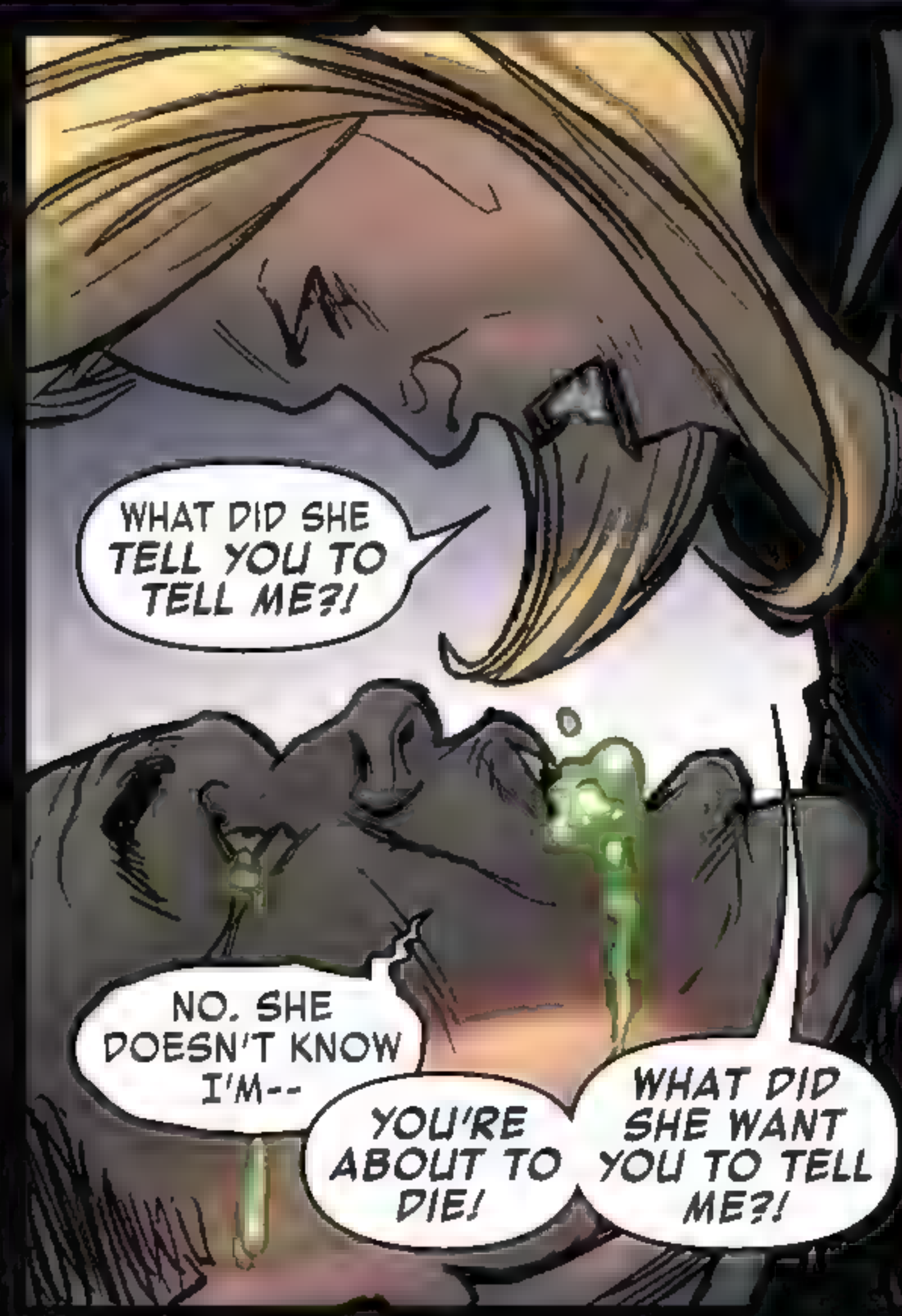
I
KNOW THAT
NAME.

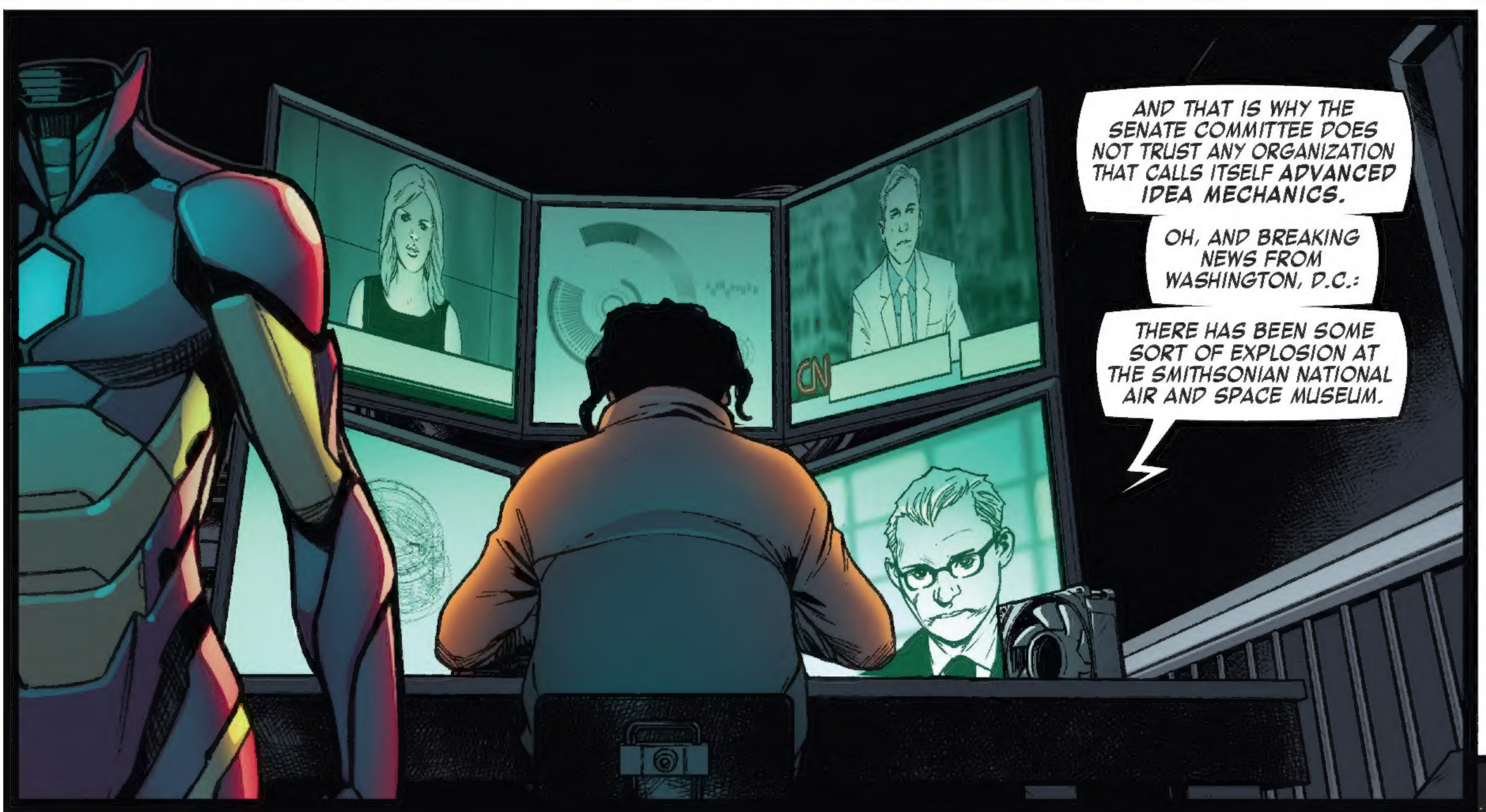
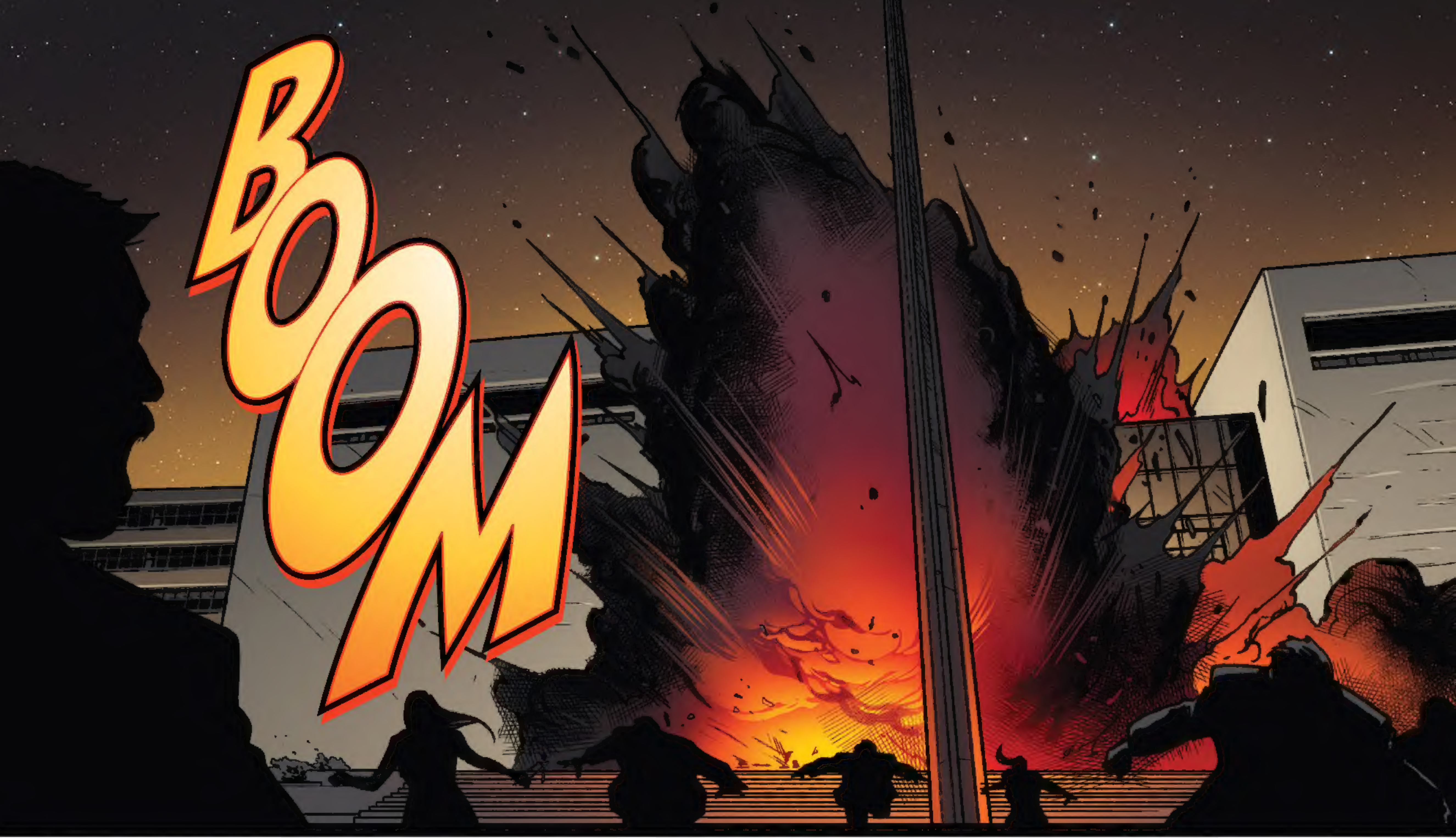
OH,
GOOD.

THAT
WILL MAKE THIS
CONVERSATION A
LITTLE EASIER
TO--

ARE YOU
GIVING YOURSELF
UP?







AND THAT IS WHY THE SENATE COMMITTEE DOES NOT TRUST ANY ORGANIZATION THAT CALLS ITSELF ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS.

OH, AND BREAKING NEWS FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.:

THERE HAS BEEN SOME SORT OF EXPLOSION AT THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM.

THE SMITHSONIAN WAS HOSTING A GALA BENEFIT, AND MOST OF WASHINGTON, D.C.'S POWERFUL ELITE WERE THERE, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND EXECUTIVE S.H.I.E.L.D. SUB-DIRECTOR SHARON CARTER.

DETAILS ARE STILL COMING IN, BUT WE HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES THAT TERRORISM HAS NOT BEEN RULED OUT.

TO BE CONTINUED...

SOCK IT TO SHELL-HEAD!

Send letters to **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and don't forget to mark them **"OKAY TO PRINT!"**

Salutations, Armored Alanna,

Riri is a clear knockout character. As a native Chicagoan it's refreshing to see a character come from a background I know. Most heroes nowadays are centered around New York City, capital of the superhuman disasters. But, seeing her come from roots with nods to current sociological problems in the city such as random violence, crime and her mother becoming a single parent is refreshing. Seeing a young teenager having to face this kind of insurmountable loss and trying to make the world better despite her limited means and sphere of influence is truly inspiring. Riri's journey is a noble one and a phenomenal lesson for all people who aspire to the classic hero archetype.

Coming from humble beginnings is also something quite interesting. Much like Peter Parker, she starts from very little in terms of wealth and privilege. Unlike Tony Stark, she wasn't born into wealth, she worked for what she has and has such a drive to be better. Unlike Tony and his fancy suits, she started from a rudimentary suit and continues to make adjustments as A.I. Tony trains her. But the one thing that I haven't seen a clear definitive answer to has to do with the nature of the R.T. (repulser tech) Node or "Arc Reactor." There hasn't been a definitive answer as to what happened to Tony's past the world-changing event, SECRET WARS. On some covers of International Iron Man, he is depicted with the node, but it never appears in the pages. It is heavily alluded to in CIVIL WAR II #8 with the stasis chamber and the post-human modifications done to his body. However, what I find more interesting is that, pictured on the cover of INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #1, it appears Riri has one implanted in her chest. I just really want to know what that could mean for the future of her character. As a huge fan with a large tattoo of the arc reactor on my chest, it's such a unique and memorable facet of the Iron Man mythos. And as always Marvel is continuing to reinvent characters with new twists.

Jordan M. Vaughan

Hey Jordan! Tony does have an arc reactor post-SECRET WARS. If you've seen him without one anywhere, it was probably a mistake. But Riri doesn't have one embedded in her chest--she probably uses something similar to power her armor, but it's not attached to her body. She has it in a few early covers because we were still messing with her design when those were commissioned.

(But cosplayers, PLEASE feel free to keep wearing arc reactors with your Riri costumes because they look HECKIN' RAD.)

Howdy,

Ever since the tragic passing of writer and champion of minority representation Dwayne McDuffie, I've been on the lookout for any kind of work resembling the kind of depth and quality he brought. Though only a

few issues in, this new volume of INVINCIBLE IRON MAN reminds me so much of what I loved about McDuffie's work, in particular his Milestone Comics.

Don't know if Bendis and the rest of the creative team were consciously influenced by McDuffie, but I can't help but notice some overlapping themes and ideas. More than just the color of her skin, Riri Williams shares many qualities with a typical McDuffie character in that she has a strong sense of humanism and doing something with her life that matters. Riri Williams actually reminds me a bit a little bit of McDuffie himself. Fun fact, McDuffie actually attended the University of Michigan when he was 13, but only for a year, since even kid geniuses need to be around people their own age.

I was hesitant at first, but I am quite enamored with the relationship Riri has with Tony as her A.I. program. It's a great role switch for Tony now having to be in a support position. It's also a nice play on the "double consciousness" concept W.E.B. Dubois discussed and was a huge theme in McDuffie's DEATHLOK series, with the main character, Michael Collins, losing his body and becoming trapped in a cyborg. Here, though, it's the rich industrialist Tony Stark who becomes estranged from his humanity i.e. his body and must reexamine his own identity through an African-American girl.

The Dwayne McDuffie Foundation is a non-profit organization with various programs that include awarding academic scholarships and keeping Dwayne's vision alive.

Taimur Dar

High praise indeed, Taimur--thank you! Riri and A.I. Tony will be going to some interesting emotional places together, and I'm probably as excited to see that unfold as you are.

To Bendis, Caselli, Gracia and the editorial staff,

So I want to love this book. And I do. Honestly, Bendis always delivers on a story where you are thrown right into the fray and there is no shortage of action. At the same time, He is giving you characters, people, you want to care about. The art is outstanding! Caselli and Gracia is a team I want to see a lot of--everything has an atmosphere, as if everything belongs. So thank you guys for that...

The thing that bothers me about the book is not the book. It was the whole uproar over J. Scott Campbell's variant cover through Midtown Comics. I've been trying to see this story from various points of view, but I just don't get it. Can someone explain to me like I'm a complete idiot how this cover was inappropriate? I have a 12-year-old daughter (who tries to behave like a 22-year-old) so don't think I am not aware of issues of objectifying and being insensitive toward women. My daddy radar is always on. But

please enlighten me, so I can get past it. So that this 46-year-old man can open a comic book by one of his favorite writers and get lost in 22 pages of fiction and not have it tarnished by now trying to read between the lines to see if there is anything else that other people will find offensive.

Making Mine Marvel since 1977,
Bill Morra

Hey, Bill--I think the best thing you can do here is listen to the people who were angered by the cover. Don't argue with them or demand that they explain--just listen. If you find that it's mostly women, and specifically women of color, who were bothered by it, it's worth considering that you're confused simply because this issue isn't one that directly affects you. And the best thing you can do in that situation is trust that the person who's upset has good reason to be and hear them out, even if you can't quite wrap your head around it. Hope that helps.

Hey Alanna,

Brian and Stefano have really messed with our emotions here with the stark tragedy of Riri unable to accept Natalie's death expertly countered by the euphoria of Riri's training. This is an engaging comic by storytellers at the top of their game.

Cheers,
Bruce Marsh QNS KOF TTB
Newbury Park, England

If a comic's not messing with your emotions, Bruce, it's not doing its job!

Before I go, here's a cool thing: Riri will be appearing next week in INFAMOUS IRON MAN #8, throwing down with that other guy flying around in Iron Man armor--Doctor Doom himself! Here's a sneak peek of Alex Maleev's breathtaking art on that issue:



See you there!

-Invincible Alanna Smith

NEXT ISSUE:



IRONHEART'S STORY
EXPANDS IN INFAMOUS
IRON MAN #8

